

Faculty of Humanities

BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

The BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) programme provides students with in-depth knowledge and an analytical understanding of contemporary political and economic issues. The combination of these three disciplines—philosophy, politics and economics—focus on the social world and social phenomena from different perspectives.

The BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) programme is an example of the complementary multidisciplinary studies that are an integral part of university studies. This qualification teaches students to respond in a sensitive, rational and innovative manner to moral problems and challenges within their politico-economic context.

A BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) qualification is an internationally recognised 'brand' that is respected for its rigorous training and immediately gives students entry into a variety of careers related to economics, policymaking, journalism and the diplomatic service.

Who is the ideal candidate?

Follow an internationally respected path to a financially competitive career with a degree in the humanities!

The BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) programme introduces students to the rigorous, vibrant context of interdisciplinary research. Training in three majors—philosophy, politics and economics—that includes statistics up to second-year level, teaches students to master the critical skills required by 'citizens of the world'. By learning to analyse and reason, students can critically engage with the history of modern economic and political thinking, and by honing their mathematical skills students can take advantage of the current big data explosion.

The perfect candidates for this exciting programme are students who have an affinity for mathematics but are also interested in socio-economic and political issues, for example the impact on society of factors such as climate change, job migration and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

What makes this programme unique?

The programme has three majors—philosophy, political sciences and economics—and includes statistics up to the second year level to train students in basic data manipulation skills.

Which companies employ our graduates?

Thomson Reuters, Goldman Sachs, Alexander Forbes, the Public Service, Accenture, Deloitte, Kuehne Nagel, Barclays, Dedola Global Logistics, the Migrant Resource Centre, the UN Refugee Agency and many others

Structure of programme

First year

Core modules: Economics, Philosophy, Political Sciences and Statistics

Elective modules:

Year-level 1: Select any two-semester modules (one per semester) from the same discipline on Year-level 1 to the value of at least 20 credits (if selected from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences), or 24 credits (if selected from the Faculty of Humanities).

Students who consider completing an honours degree in economics should consult the student administration staff of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences to determine which additional modules they should include in their programme to meet the entry requirements for a BCom Hons degree in economics.

Second year

Core modules: Economics, Political Science or International Relations, Philosophy and Statistics

Third year

Core modules: Economics, Political Science or International Relations and Philosophy

Postgraduate studies: With this qualification, students may apply for admission to the BSocSci (Hons) (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) degree programme. Subsequently, they will be able to continue with MSocSci(PPE) and ultimately doctoral degrees.



'I am a final-year BSocSci student with a triple major in philosophy, politics and economics. It allows me to hone in on all my interests and strengths, but it also challenges me academically. I am driven by social change and want to better the lives of those who are marginalised or disadvantaged. This degree will equip me to tackle various social, political and economic issues. My studies have taught me to be a critical thinker and analyser. Our course coordinator is extremely helpful and we have brilliant lecturers and teaching staff. This is a very well-designed programme and I am enjoying the experience. My undergraduate journey has surpassed the expectations I had before commencing my studies.'

Sinazo Sijovu – BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

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What career opportunities exist for graduates?



‘My name is Thato Maja. I am an honours BSocSci (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) student. Opting for a triple major degree has been one of the most challenging, but also the most fulfilling experiences of my life. PPE stretches your brain and forces you to consider things from multiple angles. We are taught to see the bigger picture and to consider aspects that may otherwise be overlooked. The workload is heavy, but we enjoy the support of devoted lecturers who help, guide and encourage us. Another amazing aspect of this degree is that it gives you clarity and freedom. We are taught a variety of skills, which we can use in any work environment.’

I would like to pursue a career in policy analysis at an international level. Using the critical thinking skills acquired through the study of philosophy, the analytical skills used in economics and the theoretical knowledge of international state behaviour as seen in politics, I hope to be able to judge whether and why policies are likely to be effective in particular instances. What I particularly enjoy about studying PPE at UP is that it prepares students for a variety of occupations. With the help of working professionals in different fields, you get a practical sense of how the taught knowledge can be used to effect change in the world.’

Thato Maja – BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

Minimum admission requirements for NSC/IEB

NON-SELECTION PROGRAMME

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023		
	Achievement level		APS
	Mathematics	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) [3 years] Close on availability of space: As soon as the number of places available for this programme are filled, it will be closed for further applications.	5	5	32

To retain admission, you must obtain an APS of at least 32 in the NSC.

Students interested in the BSocSci(PPE) programme not complying with the 5 in Mathematics for the programme, but with an APS of 32, a 4 in Mathematics and a 5 in English, may be admitted into another degree for their first year. If they register for STK 113 and STK 123 in their first year of study, and they pass each of these with 60%, they will however then have the option to apply for an internal transfer to the BSocSci(PPE) in their second year of study.

Careers: You will be eligible for a career in economic or political policy-making, journalism or the diplomatic service.

Minimum admission requirements for qualifications other than the NSC/IEB

For qualifications not indicated in the table below, refer to the conversion table in the brochure:

2023 Undergraduate programme information - Qualifications other than the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission information

Programme	Minimum requirements for 2023									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	IGCSE/ LGCSE/ BGCSE/ SGCSE/ GCSE/ NSSC OL/ O Level = Gr 11 [#]	AS Level	IB SL	IB HL	HIGCSE/ NSSC HL	KOMBI ABITUR	CGCE UCE NECO WAEC ZIMSEC O Level = Gr 11 [#]	CGCE UACE WAEC ZIMSEC A Level	KCSE
BSocSci (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) ²	English Mathematics	C C	C C	4 4	3 3	3 3	60-69% 60-69%	C C	E E	B+ B+

[#] Only English with at least a C-symbol on this level can be used for final admission. All other subject requirements per faculty must be on A Level and/or AS Level for final admission before registration—refer to subject requirements in the table above.



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ISBN 978-1-86854-802-6